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Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1412-P

DATED 7-11-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Destruction of Rats

Recording Proceedings of the
Plague Commissioner re the ———.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner, MADRAS — 1898.

C. No 2319 P

Recd. 26-10

Regd. 27-10-98

1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies 14

Circular, No. 5 General No. 191, 14th October 1898.

Order No. 1412-1317-11-98

Recd. 11/11/98

OCTOBER.

To the Plague Commissioner (Regd. 40)
SD. M. B. 11-11-98

one of the two
signed copies in
register -

Destruction of rats.

Stating that the destruction of rats should be confined to infected areas and to Railway Stations and landing places and that the rate of reward should not exceed three pies.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER

READ—G.O., No. 494 P., dated 18th May 1898, and replies of the Collectors to it.

CIRCULAR, No. 5
General No. 191, dated 14th October 1898.

In the opinion of the Plague Commissioner, the destruction of rats should be confined to—

(a) infected places and the surrounding area within a radius of 10 miles round it (paragraph 10 of G.O., No. 93 P., dated 26th February 1898).

(b) landing places and railway goods sheds, where rats from infected places are likely to be imported with goods brought by sea or railway.

In the case of (a), rewards may be necessary but the maximum rate should not exceed three pies. In other cases, the port or railway authorities are expected to do all that is required without the reward system.

2. The instructions contained in G.O., No. 274 M., dated 23rd February 1897, appended to this Circular, should continue to be strictly followed.

S. S. M. S. S.
for Plague Commissioner.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ the Surgeon-General.
„ the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
„ all Collectors (A—L).
„ all Railway Administrations.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department.
„ Consulting Engineer for Railways.

APPENDIX.

Order—No. 274 M., dated 23rd February 1897.

There is a general belief, supported by medical opinion, that rats are peculiarly susceptible to the infection of the bubonic plague and are active agents in its dissemination. Granaries are the favourite haunts of rats, and grain bags arriving from any place suspected to be affected by the plague should be very carefully examined and any rats found with them at once destroyed and their bodies consumed by fire. Infection once brought into a granary spreads rapidly among the healthy rats and thence in time to human beings living in the neighbourhood.

2. The attention of all Collectors, Presidents of District Boards and Chairmen of Municipal Councils, and the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, is therefore drawn to the necessity of taking special precautions to prevent the danger of infection from this source. Arrangements should be made for the constant inspection of granaries and grain bazaars and care taken to keep them clean and disinfected and to have the rats destroyed.

3. In inspecting these granaries particular inquiries should be made whether any dead or sick rats have been observed. Rats sick with the plague seem careless in the presence of men and run about in a dazed way with a peculiar limping gait in the hind legs owing to painful glands in the groin.

4. The bodies of dead rats when found should invariably be burnt.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER

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STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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